

Vol. 44 No. 24

April 30, 1992

VALLEY COLLEGE

VAN NUYS, CA

Newspectrum

Cinco de Mayo

MEChA and the ASU will present the third annual Cinco de Mayo celebration on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at Monarch Hall. Featured will be Quetzalcoatl, Mariachi Juvenil "Oro Y Plata," and Ballet Folklorico de San Fernando High School. Admission is free.

LAVC Choirs

George Attarian will conduct the LAVC choir in the Music recital hall on Thursday, April 30 at 11 a.m.

Summer School

Summer registration information will be posted on the bulletin board next to the information counter in the Administration building.

Fashion Symposium

On May 2 the fashion programs of the California Community Colleges will sponsor a Career Symposium and competition. It will take place at the San Francisco Fashion Center at 699 Eighth St. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Several LAVC students are submitting 13 entries in five categories.

Art Gallery

Works in Progress, an art studio experience with several student artists in residence displaying and creating their work around the theme of "Illusion and Reality," will be at the Art Gallery until May 8. A reception will be held on Friday, May 1, from 7 to 9 p.m.

IMS Filmex

"Salt of the Earth," a documentary, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at 1:30 p.m. in BSc 101. This film, chronicling the events in a small mining town in Mexico, became one of the most controversial films of all times, as it was banned throughout most of America.

Assessment testing

Continuing students who need Assessment testing in English, ESL, and math may make appointments now in the Admissions Office.

Test dates ESL May 8, 14, 18 English May 4, 11, 20 Math May 11

'Addicts of convenience' consume trees

By JORDAN MOORE Staff Writer

Dozens of trees decorated with trash confused and intrigued students and administrators Monday morning in Monarch Square in an Art Council effort to promote awareness of the overwhelming waste produced on campus.

Organizers of the event, dubbed "After Earth Day: A Temporary Exhibit," said they sought to make obvious "the needless waste that is a direct result of living as addicts of convenience.'

Plastic bottles and bags, torn signs advertising the previous day's Earth Day activities, paper plates smeared with rotting food, numerous styrofoam articles and tattered issues of the Valley Star were seemingly lynched to the trees with twine in the busiest section of

Although organizers had the cooperation of the plant management and the Associated Student Union, Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of administration ordered the exhibit torn down at 11 a.m., two hours earlier than the council was scheduled to recollect the trash.

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR ASU

Elections will be held on Thurs-

day, April 30 and Friday, May 1 in

Monarch Square. All students are

Candidates

ASII election

FALL 1992 ELECTION

eligible to vote.

President

Tom Jugueta

Ben Padua

Treasurer

no applicants

Ragna Vidar

Julian Oscar

Jesse Hernandez

Vice president

Alberto Gutierrez

Commissioners

Tara Sims

Mary Hito, an instructor in the math department, assisted the council in what she called, "dressing the trees." She felt it to be an interesting way to promote awareness and, hopefully, recycling. "People need to know what kind of impact" they have and "do their own little

Slepak sees recycling as a simple, but vital, step toward social and environmental responsibility. "There's so much paper out there already we shouldn't need to cut anymore trees," he said. "And what about bringing your own cup or plate to school? It may not look cool, but it is totally logical."

With convenience as the paramount concern, said Slepak, we are bringing our planet to a whimpering end. "This blatant consumerism is so embedded in our culture that we

"The trees are a direct reflection of the damage that the overabundance of waste has upon the environment," said Slepak. "We act like leeches sucking up trees, which are called resources and are a commodity. It's far too late in our existence as a species to continue view-

Black Studies

Chicano Studies

Native Concerns

Gay and Lesbian Concerns

Women's Concerns

Campus Improvements

Evening Division

Student Welfare

Social Activities

Athletics

Scholastic Activites

Shannan H. Callend

Fabiola Torres

Dave Emerson

Tracy D. Hart

Collete Grigsby

Roderick Stuckey

Ramon F. Diaz

George Vasquez

Marie Odie Val

Carlos Serrato

Carlos Cueva

Candice Leigh Courcy

hardly realize what we're doing.

ing the Earth as a commodity."

Earth day cares for planet

By CHRIS MAYDA **Editor in Chief**

Wearing attire frrom button-down shirts to Earth sole shoes, all types came out to celebrate Earth Day Wednesday, April 22. Valley Green President Brian Talbot called it a "caring day," as he explained the different groups that participated in the Free Speech area at LAVC.

"The purpose of Valley Green is to make students more aware of the destruction of their environment," said Talbot.

A variety of organizations took part in the festivities. Los Angeles County sponsored a compost program, and the LA Resource Program sponsored a recycling booth. Talbot said that recycling is the easiest way to start helping the environment. About 20 percent or 10,000 tons of LA County's refuse is recyclable.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's table offered aids in ending racial discrimination, saying that freedom is not free. The Gray Panthers urged national health care and abolishing artificial divisions such as mandatory retirement at age 65. Zero Population Growth greeted people with a cheery, "Did you know population growth is the biggest problem in the world?"

Several booths were against the eating of animals. The Vegetarian Society offered suggestions in how to change diet and lower food bills by cutting out meat consumption.

The society promoted cutting down on meat to benefit the planet and individual health. They said 90 percent of the United States' grain supply feeds livestock, while 800 million people starve in the world. Of every 16 pounds of grain fed to animals only one pound of meat is produced.

But if this is not enough to make one think, there is the additional information that male sperm counts are down 30 percent due to pesticides in food. One of the main suppressors of sperm is Dioxin which is found in beef. In addition several sources showed that excrement created by livestock creates more pollution that all municipal

and industrial sources combined. The Green Party had a representative to inform about their platform, which emphasizes a decentralized government, pro-choice and health care available to all, including expanded programs for those who are HIV-positive or have AIDS.

Many other organizations sent



STEVE DUNLAP / Valley Star

After Earth Day -- Art Council event lynching trash Valley College, who order trash removed at 11 a.m., on trees causes consternation for administrators at two hours earlier than students had planned.

representatives, and the warm day, though starting slowly, was well attended and sunny with several students playing hackey-sack on the lawn and others meeting in small

groups in the shade. Several speakers and performers throughout the day informed the audience in the bright hot seats about environmental concerns. Rob Zapple of Communities United for Safe Trash Management urged people to stop passage of SB 1955, which will effectively eliminate any municipality from meeting landfill reductions set by AB 939. This bill makes LA reduce its landfill by 25 percent by 1995 and

50 percent by 2000. Dr. Susan Yoder, a coastal resources specialist, told of a loss of animal life due to reduced wetlands, saying that 99 percent of Southern California's wetlands have been eliminated, which affects not only the species being lost but the commercial fishers as well. She said 50 percent of all sea life spend some time in wetlands. Yoder said. "If we accept the reality of a expanding population we must try to accept our needs in relation to the environment."

Richard Raskoff, professor of geography and adviser to Valley zillier said. "It's time for a change.

Green agreed, saying, "Cities and Earth Day when she said, "We can people are like cancer. They just

Yoder summed up the message of technology and education."

reduce our environmental problems, but it will require money,

Election draws near

By ROBERT FINKEL **News Editor**

Leon Marzillier, Valley College mathematics department chairperson, is campaigning vigorously in his attempt to unseat American Federation of Teachers College Guild President Gwen Hill.

Two-term incumbent Hill has come under fire from Marzillier in recent intercampus debates. The challenger has used these debates to focus on issues such as wasting funds for bureaucracy and classroom instruction suffering as a result.

"I would fight district administrators on their wastefulness," Mar-

The students are being cheated." He is currently Executive Board representative for LAVC. He has been involved in Guild politics for 17 years.

"Instructor's benefits are also in jeopardy because Hill has been persuaded away from the concept of benefits being locked into three-year contracts," said Marzillier. "Negotiating a year-to-year basis, as she does, is dangerously weakening our hold on benefits. I wouldn't allow that to happen.'

The election begins Monday, May 4 and continues through Thursday, May 7 at nine district campuses. The college guild is the largest Community College union in the nation. "I expect to win," said a confident

ASU presidential candidates offer platforms

By CATHERINE GUNN Staff Writer

Jesse Hernandez is campaigning for Associated Student Union president by stressing his experience and promising his Executive Council will support campus clubs.

Fine arts

Through his three semesters on council, including one term as commissioner of public relations and this current year as vice president, Hernandez has seen hundreds of successful events brought about by the 23 clubs at Valley.

"Clubs are responsible for more activities than the commissioners are," said Hernandez. ASU parcels its approximately \$80,000 budget to 15 commissioners, who receive about \$500 each.

Hernandez would like each club to begin the academic year with some money in its account. Currently clubs must hold fundraisers or request funds from the ASU. He helped interested clubs run games, such as the balloon toss, at the Health Faire this month to raise

The clubs supported Valley at the recent board meetings where Dr. Mary E. Lee, LAVC president, and

others joined forces to petition the board for more funds. The Black Student Union, MEChA, and the Filipino club were strong supporters, he said.

Hernandez wants to integrate the ASU Senate and the Executive Council. "We've built more confidence," said Hernandez. "The previous councils were not greatly acknowledged as having great respect."

Hernandez takes credit for bringing discount movie tickets to campus, and contributed to the Canned Food Drive, the Health Faire Expo and the TAE Clothing drive.

"After three years I know who to speak to to get the job done," said Hernandez, who works part time in the plant facilities department.

Ideas for next year include improving the Haunted House for Halloween, holding a Dance-a-thon with the commissioner of Gay and Lesbian Concerns.

The proposed addition of a \$7.50 fee at registration time for health services gets Hernandez' approval. "It is the only possible way to get service on campus," he said. "It is definitely needed."

Hernandez practices water polo beginning at 6:30 a.m., works for



Hernandez



Jugueta



four hours, attends meetings until 2 p.m., goes back for more water polo, and finally attends classes in the evening. His entire day is spent

at school. His goals are to be a teacher at the high school or community college level.

By CHRIS MAYDA

Tom Jugueta never took college seriously the first time around. He was there for the social life.

But then after working as a cook for a while, he returned to college and found himself with a high grade point average. He re-evaluated himself and soon began to study



seriously at LAVC. He studies political science.

Jugueta has also studied the Associated Student Union from the inside as commissioner of Asian affairs. Now he wants to put those studies to work by becoming the new ASU president.

"I decided to run when I saw that there wasn't enough done for the students on the campus," said Jugueta. He thinks with proper support and leadership the student council could be more effective and membership in ASU higher.

"I'm the type who likes to get out and get things done," said Jugueta.

Jugueta believes that there should be more information available about ASU and what it can provide the students. "I don't think most people know what a great bargain the \$7 ASU fee is," said Jugueta.

He enumerates the special discount at the bookstore that returns \$5 of the fee directly and the additional benefits of cafeteria and campus event discounts as well as six hours of free tutoring. "In an age of campaign promises

not being met, I guess I'm in that line," said Jugueta. "But if I am fortunate enough to be elected by the students at LAVC, I will keep an open mind and listen to the ideas of any student and explore avenues that can be beneficial for all."

"If I could do one thing— it's not very practical obviously— I would love to travel and meet people from every country. But here at LAVC I can almost do the same thing," said Jugueta. "It seems we have students from every nation. There is a lot to learn from them. We should reach out to the foreign students to learn from them. I did that this semester and plan to continue. I really love it.

"When I worked taking ASU pictures this semester, I got to know something about each student whose picture I took," said Jugueta. "I love talking to people."

By ISMAIL SHABAZZ Staff Writer

As the only female looking forward to becoming the Associated Student Union's new president in Fall '92, Tara Sims admits having equally competent opposition, but she says she is well qualified and prepared to handle what she believes will be her position come next semester.

Sims, 20, is a third semester mass communications major and a peer counselor with the Extended Opportunity Program & Service (EOP&S) at LAVC. Sheserved as a cheerleader during the '91 football/basketball seasons.

Sims says, "I like to be friendly," and adds, "but I'm about business." Her plans for the ASU, she says, are to effectively deal with and solve problems facing student organizations.

A member of the Black Student Union's executive council, Sims is well aware of difficulties facing student groups. She says, "Although I'm a member of the BSU, the ASU president must represent and listen to all groups." and added, "I will fulfill all of my duties."

Tired excuses

By CHRIS MAYDA

Last week we killed a man on California's death row. With 329 sentenced to death it took 25 years to kill one. More than \$21,000 per person per year is paid by taxpayers to support those condemned to death for crimes so heinous that only the death penalty will release them from the horror of their lives.

Those preaching how killing Harris was "cruel and unusual punishment" let the killer live through four last minute stays of execution and then twice lead Robert Alton Harris to his last breath.

Instead of a solemn occasion to mark the death of a vicious killer, the air was filled with the circus mentality of sentimentality in favor of the killer. It wasn't his fault that he killed. Was it the victim's fault then?

In 1976 the US Supreme Court overturned the latest ruling against capital punishment. The way was clear for states such as California to execute those who live off the public dole and smirk into cameras when the eye should fall upon them.

These men do nothing for the public good. Their existence reminds us of how we are unable to make decisions and to accept the liability placed upon us. The killing of the killer reminds us of just how awful the crime he committed was in the first place.

Is it an acceptance of this guilt that people do not want to face?

What is so valuable about life that we must protect even those who have no respect for it? Why bring us all down for the crimes of the few? Wouldn't releasing them to another existence be more charitable? Maybe they will fare better there.

Why are we against the death penalty? It is the law. Perhaps the silent cannot live up to the public responsibility for the gravity of taking a life, and the sentimental ones feed off of that and appear to be the good guys.

It seems that those who are in favor of the death penalty are silent; as if it were some crime, in itself, to stand up and say that those who butchered others should be released into another dimension.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility?

Is it cruel and unusual punishment when the victims of these murderers lie cold in their graves while do-gooders pray over the rotten still-live carcasses waiting in San Quentin? The horrified victims suffered extreme cruel and unusual punishment when they died without

knowing why. Free speech is a right in the United States, but it seems to have

that does not kill. Well, it does kill. The man who died killed two innocent 16-year-old boys so he could use their car. Those boys, true, will never be back here on this lovely earth, but he who ravages the lives of decent loving families should not be allowed to live a life supported by those like he killed.

lost its voice in a veil of do-gooders

with the so-called easy answer

blighting our existence and pro-

claiming the idealism of civilization

We all pay for the killings, every day, while the killers live to remind us of the inhumanity of man. People are born into horrible lives to parents who are not responsible weak parents who pass on their hatred and anger instead of harboring and nurturing love and strength to improve.

Why cry over what could have been? Live in a world of reality. Aspire to a better live, not a mire of life in the cruel and unusual punishment of empty survival without hope. These unfortunate parents must have some hope for their children, some aspirations, but instead they have the children and give up; they blame the system instead of working and taking the small steps, one at a time, to improve their lot. Many are able to better their lives; it is hard work. Many never even try but give an endless array of excuses.

Yet fetal alcohol syndrome and abusive parents are being blamed. What ever happened to personal responsibility? Are we not responsible for our actions? Or are we doomed to continually blaming our parents, our society when we do wrong? Can we not take the blame for our mistakes and move on to better and more positive things?

This man murdered two boys. In cold blood, as he killed one, the other begged for mercy. That Harris or any of these men had bad childhoods seems resonable. Who else would kill like that? But do we as a society have to pay for his or his parents' crimes? He has a living family, they seem to have made it through life. Is it not man himself who determines his own breaks? How many other men or women have had rotten lives and instead of falling on the crutch of "poor fought to overcome those obstacles and let their progeny live a

I am tired of excuses. Let people be responsible for their deeds and live with dignity and honor instead of blaming others for what they, themselves, did wrong. There isn't one of us who have led such perfect lives that we can't find something to blame it on, but instead we must begin being accountable for our actions and move foward. Those who have so grievously erred should go with dignity to an afterlife that might give them another chance.

The innocent victim got no second chance. Why should the murderer?

Migration worries government

By ISMAIL SHABAZZ Staff Writer

Death is the order of the day in the Southwestern United States of America. One can hardly sit still in its inner cities and suburbs hearing the popping, crackling gunfire of heavy firepower AK-47s and Uzis, manufactured in Israel and China, being used like the toys most adults played with when they were children.

With no place to test and learn to properly handle these armaments, children use homes, cars, malls, schools, and even other humans, including their parents, as targets in shooting galleries.

Politicians and leaders remain paralyzed with fear and trembling by what their eyes behold. No solution can be implemented, thus the deluge of thick, red blood continues to cover the asphalt battlefield.

Bullets strike bodies of unwitting victims, many too young to know they have become statistics in an urban war. Even seasoned generals, veterans of the worlds most cataclysmic conflicts, dread urban warfare. The population of this nation is witnessing the coming of the greatest involuntary turf war in world history.

In war, acquisition of land is made when troops charge borders and secure territory in the nation with which they are at war. This is unveiling itself now; it is the instinctive, unintentional retaking of annexed northern Mexico (Arizona, California, Utah, Texas, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Oregon) through a need for economic survival. Not only is the Mexican population shifting north, but so are El Salvador's, Honduras', Costa Rica's and other Central American nations.

America's southern land border extends from Chula Vista, Calif. in the west, crossing Arizona and New Mexico, to Brownsville, Texas to

the east. The northern land border (excluding Alaska) stretches across Cape Flattery, Wash. eastward across 11 other states and the Great Lakes region of the Midwest to Eastport, Maine.

According to San Diego Border Patrol Supervisor Steve Kean there are approximately 3700 agents, 800 in San Diego alone. Five hundred thousand individuals he said were apprehended last year trying to enter from the south illegally. The Border Patrol calculates that number to be about a third of all who cross unlawfully.

For a two-week period ending Feb. 5, no less than 500 people at once per day would rush San Diego's border checkpoint according to Kean. Whole families are being dumped off by smugglers onto Interstate Highway 5, which runs parallel to the border for a distance of three miles. They are then forced, day or night, to jet across the freeway and are not always successful in dodging 65 mile an hour traffic, to avoid border patrol agents says Kean.

Kean says his officers don't chase crossers because of the certain danger faced by those who run into traffic to avoid capture, detention and deportation. No law prevents the agents from attempting to apprehend the crossers, but border patrol, according to Kean, would prefer to see them go rather than cause their demise.

Ouestions about the treatment, by law enforcement, of the individuals who illegally cross America's southern land border to settle here are being raised. Media and the U.S. Border Patrol have been accused of racism in their handling of immigrants, referring to them at times as illegal aliens, a name not used to describe any others who unlawfully enter America.

Some believe this label is used to isolate these individuals, causing them to be viewed as strange or unusual beings, thereby justifying harsh mistreatment or even killings of those seeking the freedoms and economic opportunities afforded others.

The media is apparently to blame for not reporting news from the northern land border which many politicians and U.S. Border Patrol Deputy Chief Stan Mc Connell agree is "The friendliest border in the world," though it is not without incidents of its own.

Death is the order of the day in the Southwestern United States of America.

Less than 400 hundred agents are assigned to protect this perimeter. The reason for the higher number of crossing at the southern border, Mc Connell says, "... is because of living standards" being lower in desta bilized Latin American nations. "Better economic opportunities give them a greater incentive to cross." he adds.

The media immediately report any trouble at the southern border, while virtually ignoring events to the north. Kean says the media is responsible for patrol agents being portrayed as thugs. "[The media] put that image on us." Kean says. He adds that they never cover the border patrol's positive actions, only the unfortunate and unintentional mishaps. Kean says, "Smugglers and bandits are responsible for the deaths of these civilians," who are often stabbed and shot by these border bullies who prey on the desperate. Dumped off at the periphery by smugglers, those seeking a better life are forced to do whatever is necessary to get into this country, and can find few, if any, sympathetic hearts in government.

Mc Connell says, "In a humane way we try to enforce the laws." Mc Connell notes the danger is not limited to the southern end, recalling a recent incident in which an officer was forced to shoot and kill a gun-wielding man attempting to enter illegally. Kean says the southern border patrol has tried to form a united patrol to curtail unlawful border entry, but no one, including the police, seems interested.

None of this appears to make a difference to Latin Americans who continue to cross armed borders, challenging freeway traffic at the cost of life, dealing with scummy, crooked smugglers and thieves who kill without reason and later face the Immigration and Naturalization Service, infamous for returning busloads of the undocumented, some times mistakenly, across the border to Tijuana. What is the driving force behind this massive and incessant influx of Latinos into North

This mass migration worries the American government, who sees a familiar pattern, the one Europeans used to settle this country. It is not impossible for this to be the resettling of Mexico. An overly creative imagination is not needed to perceive this is probably the case.

Could a revolution in Mexico see a new government seated, with a new generation of politicians who would demand that America release its annexed portion of Mexico? Journalist John Ochoa said his father told him, "If I had an education, Mexico would never have lost its northern territory."

Between the do-little Mexican and do-nothing American governments, something like the \$24 billion aid package given to the Commonwealth of Independent States by western nations is needed to help rebuild Mexico's economy, rather than waiting for disaster or war to give loans and be viewed as a good Samaritan.

In two weeks, disasters, dissatisfaction and upheaval gave birth to new nations and governments in Europe. Mexico and the Americas are next.

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A system denying life

By GREG NIELSON

The recent debate surrounding the "life" of infant Theresa Ann Campo Pearson again underscores the need to reexamine an issue that many of us will have to deal with one day.

Theresa was born anencephalic: she was missing her brain. The brain stem that was present allowed only the most rudimentary of bodily functions but not much else. Her death was imminent. But when Theresa's parents petitioned to have her life support system turned off, their request was denied. Why? I think the answer has a lot to do with how we, as a culture, treat death and dying.

Laura Campo and Justin Pearson had hoped to realize some meaning from their child's tragedy, a symbol, an homage. If other babies could benefit from this, a purpose will have been served. Theresa's donated organs would help them.

When the court ruled against Laura and Justin, they appealed, only to have the decision stand. The judge in the case said no matter how bad or hopeless the situation was, she could not allow one life to be ended in order to try to save another's. There is a very important point here, as well as a great irony.

Presumeably, the judge's decision is couched in the deeply ingrained belief that if some life exists, there is reason to give it a chance. There have been instances of sudden reversals, miracle recoveries from

calamities from whic's some comatose patients were never expected to servive. But those situations were different; the question always existed, however small, that maybe, just maybe they might pull through. Therein lies a "grey area."

Theresa's condition quashed any such hope. There was no grey area. A mere brain stem does not allow for life as we know it. It is a medical fact that any infant born like this does not survive.

The irony is that the ruling is stating one thing but accomplishing quite the opposite. In our ferver to extend life meaninglessly, Theresa is given a chance at nothing. In doing so, another, otherwise healthy baby, is denied the opportunity for the same consideration. The levels of survival are drastically different. It

is black and white.

Laws are by their nature subject to change, certainly to periodic scrutiny. Our attitudes toward death belie an inherent fear which manifests itself most clearly in the decisions that are made for those without control over their lives. As in the case of Karen Ann Quinlan, the courts finally did rule that her life support systems could be removed. It should follow then that the legal system could find room to grant little Theresa's parents the same latitude, but with an entirely different outcome.

Correction

A photo of the Valley speech team in the April 9 issue incorrectly identified the photographer. The photographer was George A Simonov.

Letters to the Editor: Religious clarification

Dear Editor:

In her March 26 editorial, Editor in Chief Chris Mayda attacked several religions, saying that they have generally negative views of women. Unfortunately, the 350-word limit on letters prevents a detailed rebuttal, so I shall focus upon my own religion — Judaism, hoping that members of the other faiths write to the Star as well.

Ms. Mayda says traditional Judaism "required that women be separate from men in worship." True, but this is to separate the sexes from each other so that neither man nor woman is distracted during worship.

Again, in the context of Judaism, Ms. Mayda refers to women as "the

temptress, the cause of original sin, and the cause of man's guilt toward

"Original sin" is found nowhere in Judaism; how does the editor in chief explain this drastic oversight? Regarding "man's guilt toward sex" — see "original sin," above.

As a closing on the subject, she says that "Ancient Jewish prayer contains the passage of 'thank you, Lord that I am not a woman.' "On this topic, the Artscroll Siddur (prayerbook) says: "The [Old Testament] assigns missions to respective groups of people ... All such missions carry extra responsibilities .. [Male] Jews have responsibili-

ties and duties not shared by others [so] they express gratitude that ...

they were not freed from the obligation to perform [certain] commandments.

Women have often been the protectors of Judaism when the impetuosity and aggressiveness of the male nature led the men astray. The classic precedent was in the [desert] when the men — not the women — worshipped the Golden Calf.

In discussing Judaism, Ms. Mayda relied on three misinterpretations and four falsehoods. The First Amendment says the Star may publish her editorial; does it give permission to publish the truth as Greg Dermer

Astronomy Major

You claim that the women in Islam are still sequestered and hidden behind veil and clothing. In fact, in Islam modesty is required in the outdoor dress of both women and men. However, there is no specific uniform dress recommended for a Muslim woman. The Koran underlines such requirement for a woman's dress in the following verse: "O prophet: tell your wives and your daughters, as well as also all (other) believing women that they should draw over themselves some of their outer garments (when in public) this will be more conducive to being recognized (as decent women) and not annoyed." (33:59) Islam allows any dress that fulfills the requirement of modesty

About your claim that women are kept illiterate and unaware of their rights, you neglect the fact that Muslim women made their contributions in various fields. The Muslim history has witnessed many women who were influential and occupied leading positions. The prophet's wife Aysha expressed her critical views on Caliph Utman's policies, and made a stand against Caliph Ali. She was known for her wide knowledge in Islamic law, poetry and medicine. Also, in recent times the prime minister of Pakistan last year was a Muslim woman. As far as the discussion concern-

ing sexual practices, I feel all religions have been against premarital sexual practices. However, a scholar of the Koran could not find any place in the Koran that would advocate clitoris removal or the sewing up of genitals. These have nothing to do with Islam. Virginity is required by custom and strongly suggested by Islam because there is no pre-marital sexual behavior.

I again remind you that decaying cultures and customs have far more to do with the examples you quote than the Islamic religion as set out by the Koran. As time goes by, those societies changed their customs, but the Islamic religion remains the same to guide its people in all matters. Do not confuse the two.

> Nadia Eldam Computer Engineering Major

Valley Star

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* LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS *

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if



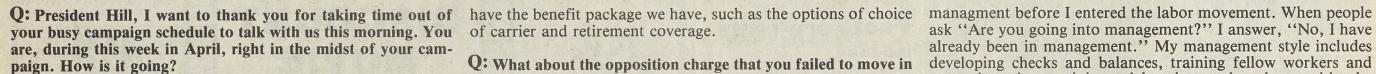
they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday for the following Thursday.

Interview Gwen Hill

The incumbent President of Local 1521 of the American Federation of Teachers and candidate for re-election to the office, gave the following interview in response to questions of faculty at the campus of East Los Angeles College on Friday, April 3, 1992.

This is a paid advertisement



A: It's going very well. We are really at the hump; we have just visited our fifth campus. We have four more campuses where we give the faculty an opportunity to see all the candidates, both local and district-wide, that they will vote for on May 4 to 7, 1992.

Q: These assemblies of candidates for faculty scrutiny ... you call it a candidates forum ... aren't they for the most part, debates between you and your principal opponent?

A: It's primarily that. The Vice-President and Secretary are running unopposed. The treasurer is an incumbent and has opposihas not shown himself at the debates.

Q: Your opponent seems to see you as someone on the "junket" circuit. I think the readers of this interview would like to know what kind of operation you conduct.

A: Well, it's not a kitchen table operation. We wear some hats which come by the fact that I represent the union of the largest community college district in the world. With that are certain responsibilities of working with national and local affilitates. I serve on the Higher Education Commission for the AFT. There are only two of us from community colleges serving on the Commiss ion. Norm Swenson out of Chicago (he is representing the second largest) and I are on the Commission along with twenty other people. When I attend meetings, it is fully paid for by National and because of the economic crunch that is hurting us across the board we need to form coalitions. Higher education is really in jeopardy throughout the country and you certainly can't operate in isolation. You must work with other groups. They especially want to work with Californians because they are afraid that what happens here might spread there since Prop 13. It is mandated or required by our National Constitution that I attend National conventions. So I have actively participated in Boston and San Francisco. The next one will be in Q: You claim as an achievement work done in the past year or so Pittsburgh; it is part of our responsibility. We serve on committees which will influence policy. So it is important that the largest local make timely and positive input. Part of our Staff Development program includes a travel package across the continent. I will never forget the reception Don Misumi of Trade Tech received at the mid-west regional in Chicago from the representative of the Fashion Institute in New York. There was a tremendous sharing and brainstorming about the mission and goals of trade schools and community colleges. It was a tremendously important exchange of ideas.

Q: What you have described is really about peer and collegial requirements, the need to keep abreast of developments within the larger union family.

A: That is correct, and if we fail to accomplish this, we are dead!

Q: A substantive question raised concerns what your opponent sees of faculty salaries not keeping pace with the salaries at Glendale Community College, a single college district he used as

a yardstick. A: Well, my opponent does not include approximately nine to eleven thousand dollars worth of benefits (which are, really, cash). He admitted at the Pierce College debate that no, he doesn't include the benefit package. You see, each negotiating team has gone to the faculty and asked "Which is more critical to you? Is it salary increase or benefits?" And every time in the past decade faculty have said "to improve benefits." We included Vision Care, plus one thing that a lot of these locals, including Chicago, do not have: complete coverage when you retire for you and your spouse. Maybe one day "the significant other" will be covered. In Chicago, coverage stops when you reach the age of 70. Then you are left with only Medicare and that limits you as to your options in health services because the costs are more when you are older. Glendale simply does not

Q: What about the opposition charge that you failed to move in a timely manner in the negotiation of the last contract, or that there was some lethargy in your strategy?

A: That simply was not the case. For the first time, we thought we were able to convince the district that "prep time" is important to put together a contract that is covering 300 million dollars. We thought that our team did not have to be a voluntary organization. So they received release time in the Spring. And then we were prepared to go to the table in the Spring. Prior to that, a lot of volunteer time was involved, especially on the part of our Chief Negotiator.

You see, we had various workshops on the campuses asking tion. I have not met the third candidate for President because he every faculty member to share his or her input. And, incidentally, nobody said anything to us about a retirement incentive at that time (during these particular preparations). It had not been introduced. Then the district had an internal problem of its own leadership for meeting us at the table. We first met with Jose Robledo who then left to become acting President at Los Angeles West College. That was on August 9, 1991. It took them sometime to decide on their own negotiator, and we are not involved in that decision as to who would sit across from Barbara Durham at the table. Finally the Chancellor announced Ernie Moreno to represent the district, and that appointment was made on August 27, 1991. Negotations then began on September 12, 1991.

Q: This sounds timely to me.

A: Absolutely, because in the past, very often the district would not want to meet with us until after the contract had expired. We were effective in bringing the district to the table prior to the expiration of the contract ... a good two months before expiration of the contract. We had responsible leadership. My opponent sat on that team and never once complained about the dates until after he became a candidate.

with respect to part-timers. Can you tell us about that? A: Part-timers were able to earn a small Social Security benefit. The district's part-timers are employees who are part of several different unions. I and the AFT leadership interviewed a great many part-timers, and I had extensive discussions with official part-time chair Cliff O'Connell. Subsequently, we all met with management to develop other options. A part-timer's Social Security option provides such a low level retirement account that we were required to negotiate some additional and more realistic, secure options. In the last year the Union has negotiated a form of "vested annuity" for part-timers that is portable and into which the district pays the majority amount. This kind of retirement account is like cash in the bank! I wish we could have developed a similar mechanism for our full-time employees, but restrictions of STRS compel us to seek other innovations. In consulting with Art Forcier and others, we are seeking to maximize beneficial funding for our union members, but at the same time we must be realisitic about restricted funds throughout the county, state and country.

Q: In leading a large membership such as the AFT or conducting executive board sessions, how would you characterize your management style?

A. Decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. All parties concerned must have input in order that a relevant and equitable decision be made. I am committed to the process which works well in mid-management approach when total decision making does arise from the bottom or trickle down from the top. When I chose to run for office again it was based on the support of the union leadership which is 80 percent of the executive board and if I were elected without the support of union leadership. With that support. I am confident in assuming a leadership role that is decisive, including making judgement calls and not waffling. Many people do not know that I had experience in business and United we stand, divided we fall.

ask "Are you going into management?" I answer, "No, I have already been in management." My management style includes developing checks and balances, training fellow workers and respecting that training, delegating tasks along with the awareness of how the parts of the whole are working, and being available to everyone. I respect the expertise of my colleagues and I share my insights with my associates. Collectively, we develop positions of vital importance and timely communicat ion to the membership.

Q: Some faculty have asked if it is of any importance to the union that the opponent, Leon Marzillier, in running for AFT President, does not hold United States citizenship.

A: Thank you for asking me that question. First of all it is not my issue. I have never brought up that issue. It is his personal decision to elect not to become an American citizen. Now that the question has been raised, the issue might be a problem. I know that he said his children would vote for him because his children are American citizens. I think that is an excuse. Either he must elect to participate or not participate fully in the political process. For him to say "my children would vote for me," is like a woman saying, "my husband will vote for me if I

don't have the right to vote.' He has also said that he is going to "lead the battle, lead the charge to Sacramento." When I am in Sacramento, the legislature knows I have over 6,000 people with influence supporting me because I am a registered Democrat. I would also go into the voting booth to elect to vote or not vote for a particular candidate. It is that particular strength that comes from my ability to vote that I feel most strongly about. I am a fifthgeneration-born American who's ancestors had to struggle for many years to have the right to vote and have had some members of my family killed when they were exercising their right to vote. It is very difficult for me to understand why a person who may not like certain policies in the country refuses to exercise the right to something that has cost us life and death. Then too, when males in my race were able to vote, I still could not vote because I was a woman, and so I have a double interest in enfranchisement. If, the opponent does not like that, it is his personal business. I think it will be a definite liability for the membership should the opponent, by some fluke, become president of the union.

Q: President Hill, if you received a mandate from the voting faculty throughout the district, what is your agenda in the years immediately ahead?

A: First, we want to see stabilization put in place. We want to put an end to the second-class status of our part-time faculty. I will continue to work with the Academic Senate and the District Planning Advisory Committee. In summary, I will work with colleagues from all political persuasions to achieve the follow-

- ★ Create greater opportunities for students to realize their educational goals
- ★ Negotiate a more attractive salary package for all members of the bargaining unit
- ★ Expand our libraries and information systems
- ★Improve the registration process and facilitate class selections
- ★ Secure preparation time for part-time faculty
- ★Upgrade and expand computing and technological equipment

seven of the nine chapter chairs. It would be unsatisfying for me I have succeeded in fulfilling all my previous campaign promises and I will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to respond to all your concerns. Please remember to vote on May 4 to the 7, 1992 on your campus.



Pariah with guts

Dear Editor:

Valley Star Editor in Chief Chris Mayda appears to be the latest victim of Political Correctness. She is quite right that parents with many children cannot give them educational opportunities.

Consideration for the needs of one's own offspring is an excellent reason for limiting family size, but there are others even more compelling. Our planet is already at or beyond carrying capacity for human beings, and the world population is due to double again in a few years. Yet any suggestion that residents— of whatever race or ethnicity— should curtail the size of their families is met with cries of "cultural insensitivity" or "racism" from certain sectors.

Overpopulation, though the single most crucial problem in the world today, is considered a too-hot potato by many politicians because of the powerful forces arrayed against family planning. Ms. Mayda may be a pariah on her campus, but she is a hero to members of Zero Population growth.

> Alison C. Fuller Altadena, California

Class-ist position

Dear Editor:

Saturday's LA Times brought news of the turmoil surrounding your editorial on a subject that I regularly present to my cultural geography classes - population quantity and quality.

An editorial on academic freedom seems needed just now.

On the subject of family size and educational attainment, there should now exist a substantial body of scientific literature that supports your position (and mine). I have seen articles on the subject in Science Magazine dealing both with family size and with birth order as determinants of intelligence.

I don't consider your position on the subject to be racist, but rather it is class-ist. Lower socioeconomic classes tend to have larger families (which guarantees continuing membership in the lower

socioeconomic classes).

Historian Arnold Toynbee thought that in Catholic countries the best and the brightest became part of the celibate clergy, leaving the rest to replicate, lowering the intelligence in each subsequent generation.

Perhaps only some of these ideas will withstand close examination, but they should be freely available for consideration. I also hope you will withstand the current siege in these times in which free speech is on the endangered species list.

> James Sullivan geography instuctor East LA College

PC intimidation

Dear Editor:

It is much easier to be "offended" than to do what's needed to make this a better world. I hope that you will not resign your position.

There's many people who think like you but are too intimidated by what's "politically correct" to speak up. These days everyone is more concerned with their rights than with their responsibilities.

Hang in there.

M. Eiser Canoga Park

Literacy, right on

Dear Editor:

Your editorial, "Do Literacy and Babies Mix?" sounds right on! It is my opinion and that of a strong minority that care of children by their parents and encouragment to succeed academically is not happening as it should. And the poor people have the most problems.

Most important: You have forced people to think a bit.

> With support. **Edith Haynes** Whittier, CA

Support for generated heat

Dear Editor:

I wanted to drop you a quick line of support for the heat you generated with your column on birth rates and their hindrance to higher education.

I totally agree with your position and find that it is not racist at all. The comments you are alleged to have made apply to the poor across the board and have nothing to do with race. Poverty and culture are interrelated and it is not uncommon to find those cultures that value large family size to be lower on the socioeconomic scale. I too find it a shame that large families are not only adversely affecting our (their) educational opportunities but their economic and social ones as well.

The problem is that our system has become too "bottom loaded." It is so overpopulated by those needing services that it will eventually sink. Imagine the system as a life boat with a finite capacity and imagine an ocean full of people trying to get on board. How many do you let on? Enough to make it comfortable? Enough to make it uncomfortable or enough so that the chances of survival are slim? Or do you get stupid and let so many people on that the boat sinks and everybody drowns?

I applaud your courage in speaking out. It isn't easy being "politically incorrect", but having been so myself for the better part of my life it is necessary to go against

> **Bob Lanz** Los Angeles, California

Facts are facts

Dear Editor:

No one enjoys unpleasant truths, but facts are facts, and problems cannot be dealt with unless they are faced head-on.

I admire Chris Mayda's courage to boldly state her opinion and hope she will not be browbeaten for accurately telling about an unfortunate part of life on which more focus should be placed.

Lisa Kilbridge

Togo sings messages of love

By RAQUEL VACCARO Interview Editor

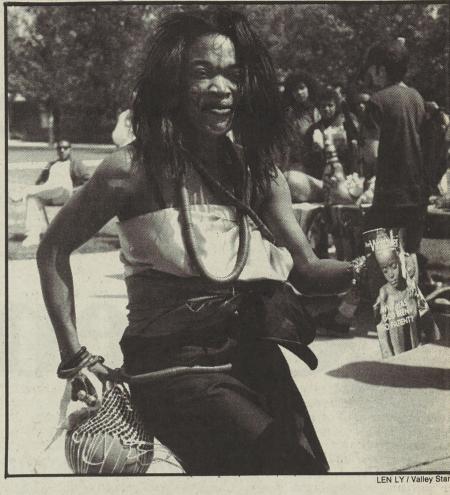
If you were in Monarch Square Wed., April 8, at noon you could not miss a young dancer by the name of Togo. Draped in a long bright yellow outfit, colorful beads on both arms, long black hair, Togo sang a message that was strong, clear and powerful: "Internationally, children are dying. We need to help all the children of every color, race and religion."

Born in Nigeria, Togo has been a U.S. citizen for 10 years. She earned her degree in broadcasting and communication from Cal State Los Angeles. She has also taken art classes at Valley College. She speakes six languages and tries to learn the language of the country she will visit.

She urges everyone to write their representatives in congress, senators, heads of state and CIA officials to demand their involvement. When she meets with the United

Nations in May she will urge them to help more. "They aren't doing enough," said Togo. Her dance was ended with a song

and a chant. The last words heard were,"I love you. God bless and please don't let the children die."



Togo and Revolution- Draped in bright colors, Togo dances for the children of the world, bringing a message of peace and love.

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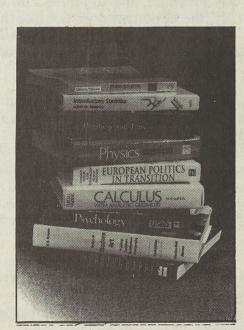
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Monday, April 27, 12 Noon to 1pm - Fireside Room

'The Holocaust and its Relevance Today: A Personal Perspective." In commemoration of Yom HaShoah--Holocaust Remembrance Day, Si Frumkin, Holocaust survivor & prominent Jewish community leader will speak. Co-sponsored by Hillel, the Jewish Studies Department & Psychology Department.

Wednesday, April 29, 11am to 1pm - Monarch Square

"Holocaust Memorial Display" Monday, May 4, 7pm - Fireside Room

"The Other Side of 1492: The Jewish Expulsion from Spain" Dr. David Raphael, author of a number of Historical Novels dealing with the Sephardic experience will speak.

Wednesday, May 6, 12 Noon to 1pm - Fireside Room

"The Fruit of Her Hands" This beautiful film celebrates the achievements of ten remarkable Jewish women throughout world history.

Thursday, May 7, 11am to 1pm - Monarch Square

Yom Ha Atzma'ut-Israel Independence Day Celebration & Israel Programs Fair. Join us at the Hillel Booth in celebrating Israel's 44th birthday with cake/music/balloons. Discover exciting work & study opportunities in

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Raquel listens... to movie moguls

"Ghosts," "The Naked Gun 21/2," "Airplane," and "Top Secret" are only a few of the great movies by executive producer/director Jerry

The love of entertaining came early to this talented movie mogul. As a young child, Zucker and his brother, David, entertained his family back in Wisconsin.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Zucker moved to Los Angeles in 1972, where he continues to produce and direct hit after hit. He loves what he does and it shows in his work.

Enter Dennis Dugan, a talented actor-turned-director. Dugan starred in such films as "Parenthood," "Can't Buy Me Love." He also appeared in "Moonlighting," "The Rockford Files," and had a recur-ring role on "Hillstreet Blues." Dugan made his debut as a director in the hit "Problem Child."

I had the opportunity to interview these talented movie moguls after the screening of their new movie "Brain Donors," and I'm glad I did because I left loving comedies.

Interview with executive producer Jerry Zucker

Q. How did you come up with the title "Brain Donors"? A. Originally, it was to be shot in Washington, and it was named "Lame Ducks," but it made no sense because it was about three dopey guys, so we did a title search and came up with a more catchy title.

Q. How will you promote your movie? A. As a combination of the Marx Brothers, The Three Stooges and the Reagan administration.

Q. The film's opening credits with the clay animation were a masterpiece to me. How did you come up with this great opening? A. Thanks. We've all been working around comedy all our lives, and we wanted something funny for our opening. It took seven months to do the animation, one frame at a time. We shot the movie in 60 days.

Q. Why make another comedy? A. Everyone involved loves comedy, slapstick and old silent films that aren't being made anymore. That's when we decided if we wanted to see such a film, we had to make one

Q. How does "Brain Donors" compare with "Airplane" or "Naked Gun."? A. "Brain Donors" is zany, not a satire, and it's silly and funny. We threw as many crazy ideas together as we could using slapstick, gags and just plain fun.

Q. Any message to the movie? A. None at all. It's just a slapstick comedy for the whole family to en-

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O. What was the production cost of "Brain Donors." A. About \$17

It was fun. It was crazy. It was outrageous.

Q. How much value did you place in the test marketing of the movie? A. Lots of value. I listened to the audience reactions. That's very important to me. If the audience didn't really laugh, I took it out.

Interview with director Dennis Dugan

Q. How hard was it to cast for this movie? A. We cast hundreds of actors for the movie. We agreed unanimously on who was chosen for each role. We looked for the funniest, zaniest and most outrageous

Reviewing

'Brain Donors'

By RAQUEL VACCARO Interview Editor

I hate comedies, or at least I thought I did, until I attended a private screening of Paramount's new picture "Brain Donors," from genius brothers David and Jerry Zucker, who act as executive pro-

The quick-paced movie, produced by Gil Netter and James D. Brubaker and directed by Dennis Dugan, involves the audience from the beginning.

The opening alone is worth the price of admission. The credits are a creation of animated clay, and they are funny, funny, funny.

John Turturro stars as Roland T. Flakfizer, an ambulance chasing attorney, and he keeps you laughing throughout the movie with his brilliant and outrageous performance. Turturro, whose former films include "Do the Right Thing," "Desperately Seeking Susan," and "To live and Die in LA," is supported by two other zany actors. The trio becomes a wild and crazy mix of the Three Stooges and the Marx Brothers.

Bob Nelson plays Jacques, a madcap jack-of-all-trades, master of comedy. Nelson's credits include "Kindergarten Cop," "It Ain't Easy Being Me," and "This is My Life." His performance continuously keeps the audience wanting to see what crazy hijinks he'll be caught doing next.

O. Where was the film shot?

A. We shot in Beverly Hills at the

Greystone mansion, in Pasedena at

the Morton Estate [where the Marx

Brothers' "Duck Soup" was shot],

in San Pedro at the Grand Theater,

and at the Herald-Examiner

What was it like directing this

film? A. It was fun, it was crazy, it

was outrageous. Everyone involved

in this film is so talented and had

lots of credits to his name. We knew

O. Who do you think the film

targets? A. While we tried not to

target it to a particular group or age,

we think it targets everyone, from

child to grandmother. The film is so

outrageous and funny, it made us all

laugh, and we knew and hoped

O. What makes a good director?

A. Being committed to the movie,

loving your cast and crew, and having

the opportunity to work with a very

talented group of people as I did.

others would feel the same.

it was a hit from the start.

Building.

Mel Smith plays Rocco Melonchek, a cab driver who moonlights as anything that pops into his head at the moment. He has starred in "Morons From Outer Space," "National Lampoon's European Vacation," and "The Princess Bride." His English accent seems to complement his ever-changing repertoire of crazy characters.

A scene at the ballet sweeps the audience with mass hysteria when our three zany guys, who pose as investors, attempt to share hot dogs and sodas with rich patrons of the arts. This unparalleled pairing of groups which don't normally mix in daily life makes for a smash hit.

A more perfect supporting cast will never be found.

Grab your popcorn and expect the unexpected when you see this movie. It's there and it's funny. It's a good movie for the whole family to see, age 8 to 80, so have fun and enjoy.

Cafeteria:

Not in bad taste

dinner until 9 p.m. Items such as

turkey, roast beef, and hamburgers

are served Monday through Thurs-

day for those night students who

thought they missed the boat in the

The International Room is for

students who want ethnic, healthy,

or variety foods in their diet. Here

waffles, eggs, sausage, and

breakfast burritos are served at 8:30

a.m. Cereal, milk, coffee, juice, and

doughnuts are available for those

who don't feel like migrating to The

The International Room is quiet,

better lit, and the tables are farther

apart. Smoking is not allowed. It's

usually deserted in the morning and

is the ideal place to study in solitary

trees appear. Monday through

Thursday three kinds of pizza ap-

pear. One is usually vegetarian and

one is nouveau shrimp and pineap-

ple or some other festive combo.

Pepperoni is also available. All cost

beans and rice are served. Tacos and

tostadas are made to order although

slightly flavorless. The cheese en-

chiladas and taco pie are my per-

Mexican entrees with vegetarian

\$1.40 per slice and are a safe bet.

Around 10:30 a.m. the lunch en-

International Room.

Valley Galley.

confinement.

By SHARON FELTON Staff Writer

Most people feel their school cafeteria leaves a bad taste in their mouth. The International Room and Valley Galley are two exceptions. Both are Valley College's eating facilities located next to each other on the north east side of the quad.

Both offer large lounge areas to eat, study, and hang out with friends. Chips, cookies, doughnuts, and soft drinks are sold in each. The coolers have salads, fruits, cheese, sandwiches, and juices.

The Valley Galley allows smoking and is usually crowded with students playing cards and radios. Many languages are spoken and it caters to an energetic and social crowds. The lights are dimmer. The tables are closer together.

Items on the menu consist of burgers, fries and grilled sandwiches. Breakfast starts at 6:30 a.m. Coffee, eggs, bacon, and sausage are available in sandwich, breakfast burrito, and a la carte form. This is the place to start the day if you have an early morning class.

The place picks up later. The Valley Galley has the atmosphere of a smokey club. It's loud and people frequently laugh as they play cards and when restaurant reviewers walk

by taking notes.

sonal favorites.

Sandwiches are made to order from tuna, turkey, ham, and peanut butter separate or all together. Side orders of mustard, mayo, tomato, sprouts, and avocado are there with cheese to relieve the boredom.

Soups change daily. Both meat and vegetarian are offered.

A steamed or boiled vegetable, rice or mashed potato, and two entrees are served. Entrees are often roast beef, turkey, or fish. Stay away from the mashed potato and zucchini casseroles.

The stuffed peppers are good because they have the rest of the pepper inside with a few bread crumbs thrown in. The pasta with pesto sauce was excellent. I told them I liked it and they never made it again. They do nice things with steamed broccoli and carrots. The corn and green beans just don't cut the mustard. They taste canned.

The menu changes daily. The prices are low. There are always tables available. No one tells you to be quiet. You can brings your friends without having to worry about dresscodes, cover charges, tips, or valet parking.

The Valley Galley is open 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The International Room serves food between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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The heroes of the 20th century

"I've learned a lot, I've been a strong fighter, but it's no guarantee," said Arnie Araica, a long time survivor of AIDS.

There are so many viewpoints on how to look at AIDS. It's difficult due to the multitude of variables and the numbers of people involved. But it's unique "to be actually inside the experience, going through so many different changes, living and going through illnesses ... and still surviving," said Arnie.

"Sometimes I want to tear my hair off," Arnie continued. "Sometimes it gets real tough. I have more of an understanding of the illness, so it's easier for me to talk about it. My friends have a hard time listening to me. They treat me like it should be kept quiet. I don't feel it has to be a wheelchair syndrome. I'm still alive and still living. I don't think it has to end right there and then. This is how I feel. I realize others might not have the same options and opportunities as myself."

"I don't deny depression," said Arnie.
"But I have this thing in me that says I'm still alive. It still makes me want to live, to take off and go to the flea market or whatever. And, of course, everyone has the panic look on their face. If anything, it's going to make me tired. It's not going to kill me. I don't understand the logic when they tell me you need to get around and exercise. What's the difference? People mean well, and they have their own opinions, but if it's what it takes for you to survive, who's to say who should do what?"

"You know," continued Arnie, "it's easy to give an opinion, but it's harder to follow your own advice."

While many people would give up, Arnie is not a quitter. He has learned to approach his life as a string of accomplishments and not just sitting there doing nothing.

"You learn to accept little discomforts, you learn to live with it but it doesn't mean you stll don't feel," said Arnie.

Arnie's attitude, while positive and matter-of-fact, does not trivialize the situation. "I don't have that heaviness about thinking of death anymore," said Arnie. "I have a very clear understanding of that, but I can't dwell on it. I can't let it stop me. When it stops me, it will stop me cold. Until then, that doesn't have to be such a constant on my mind. Somehow the pressure from outside makes me more aware of it than myself. When you turn on the T.V., AIDS is on T.V. It's in every paper, and every magazine. It's always something."

Family members have been easier than friends in accepting the idea that Arnie has a terminal illness.

"Right now, I tell my friends who know I've had a hard time that I still want them to call me. I still want them to say 'hey, you feel like going to a movie, or a last minute dinner, or little get together?' Treat me as if I still function, because really nothing has changed," said Arnie. "Yes, I have this thing in me, and yes, I know the final outcome, but that's already written. Why do I need to get that pounded into my head all the time. I feel like there's still life and there's still opportunity."

"I go through depression," Arnie continued, "but I get over it and move on. It doesn't mean it's not going to happen again. It doesn't mean that it's all over - you say you've accepted it and that's it and you don't ever think about it again. It's impossible to do that."

Arnie pondered, then said, "The thing is, in coming to terms with what I've got, I'm learning to still continue. It makes it easier to deal with the illness so you can still function, live and survive, and not just dwell on the fact that you may die or that there's nothing left for you to do, because there is."

"Actually," continued Arnie, "being down is not letting down your defenses. I feel very comfortable when I am down because I verbalize it. It's not that bad. It's like having the courage to want to live. You also have to have the courage to say when you are down. It's taken some time to learn that, especially since I was always such a determined person. I've always wanted to be on top, so it's like you don't want to let your defenses down. You see it as being defenseless because you're admitting that you're down."

"But now," said Arnie, "I see it differently. It's like getting rid of stuff, and it puts you more on top. I learned by opening up, especially having brothers in the same position. I get tremendous support from them, and that's a big relief."

"It was tough at first with no family, but because I was vocal it's now easy to talk about emotions. It's brought death out into the open," said Arnie. "We can talk and joke



PETER MAXWELL/Valley Sta

Another Room

My dear, this death is no tremendous thing, so speak to me again, call me by name Be joyful, laugh with me, let your heart sing, for I am I and you are you, the same.

Come now and brush those teardrops from your eyes, since out of sight need not be out of mind.

A moment's thought will make realize this parting will be brief and not unkind, For we will meet again, love as before, take courage, then, and think not of the cost.

Lift up your soul to God, let your heart soar, remember me as present, not as lost.

Why should you yield to sorrow, grieve with gloom? I've merely stepped into another room.

C. Sand Childs

about it. It makes me feel very comfortable. You know, it's funny. Eventually we're all going to die, but here in the U.S. it's taboo to talk about death."

"My mom, she'll tell me when she gets sad. She knows that she's danced to at least three. We've already lost one," Arnie said.

"There are three of us brothers who are sick," continued Arnie. "There were three, now there are just two. One died in July. But the fact that she can tell us that she is sad and not have to hide it, we can offer her words of wisdom and comfort. It allows us to still interact and function. It gives us an opportunity to reciprocate."

"Our mother makes us feel comfortable." said Arnie. "That's because you can't deny your parents or friends their feelings. If you deny them or pretend that their feelings aren't there, it makes it a lot more difficult. That's what I try to tell my friends that have a difficult time just coming over. I understand if it's hard for you to accept the idea that I may be gone one day. But, you can tell me that too. You can call and just tell me that you're all right, because I understand. Don't assume for me by not talking," said Arnie, with more than a tinge of irritation. "Let me have a chance to comfort you also, because that's part of still living. That's part of being a human being. And ... I still think."

"I'm still the same person," Arnie said softly. "Arnie likes attention. Arnie likes what he has always liked. Yes, there are limitations, so call and find out where I stand."

Arnie talks to his other brother, who is also sick, on a daily basis. "He feels real comfortable because he can talk to me and I understand how he feels. He doesn't have to go into heavy details," he said.

Lapsing into silence, Arnie reflects on his past. "I can't believe so much time has gone by," he said. "When I first found out I said, 'please God, just give me two years,' and every two years I would say 'just give me another two years.' I kind of made it into a joke. It's funny because even though I had a low T-cell count back then, I'm still pulling through. I've had my fair share of illnesses, but I haven't let them stop me."

"I look back over those seven years and I've done a lot," said Arnie. "I've been able to travel, I worked up until two years ago, I have the opportunity to work around the home, and

I have a list of little projects."

"I can see where someone doesn't want to keep busy," said Arnie. "But I have to be

honest and say anxiety alone is enough to want it st stop. The constant doctors appointments, medications, machines ... it's a 24 hour job just maintaining."

"There are days," continued Arnie, "when I want to rip my heart and want this to end, because there is so much involved that goes unseen. There's just so much pressure, it can be overwhelming."

"My little brother," said Arnie, "I struggled so hard to get him to do all the things that I was doing. Then I realized one day my brother just didn't have the drive or motivation that I did. There was anger, but the anger was from my part. I realized he just did not have the strength to do it, and it wasn't bad. He wanted to go. It just hurt," Arnie continued, "because I wanted him to try as hard as possible. That's when I realized that not everybody has it. My brother was 30 when he let go."

"Now my 25-year-old brother is a survivor," said Arnie. "He's like me. Considering what he's gone through, he's still out there pushing it. He finds all these projects at home, he writes and he paints every day. He's like me," continued Arnie, expressing sincere pride in his brother. "We have an understanding of what's going on, but it hasn't stopped us from living. He's a fighter."

Arnie has always been close to his brothers, having actually raised the two who have been sick. The illness has brought them closer, learning from each other's experiences, learning how to see things in a different light.

"Listening to others," said Arnie, "makes you look at yourself. That's where I think some people get afraid. One friend says that one thing I've taught him - to make him look at himself, and how he no longer looks at life like he's going to live forever. He realizes it's what he's doing with the time that he's here on earth."

There's a close friend whom Arnie can talk to freely as well. He has had a Buddy through All Saints Church, Pasadena, since September 1991. "It's turned out to be really nice. It's more like a natural relationship," he said, "like a friend. We're separated by the fact she's coming from a different perspective. So you can say things and she won't get offensive or give her opinion. Beverly is there to listen and comfort, not to judge. It's okay to speak freely, and that feels really good."

"I love him," said Beverly Serra-Brooks. "He's a great guy. If we could all have that much courage."

Beverly said Arnie has, unfortunately, spent most of his time at Sherman Oaks Community Hospital until recently. After being hospitalized for three weeks out of the month sometimes, it takes Arnie another week to get over it.

"His basic personality is high spirited,"
Beverly continued. "If you have that positive outlook, I think it allows you to reconcile experiences in a way which allows you to move on with life."

"He's not superficial," she said. "Arnie talks about what's really meaningful in life, which adds to his focus."

As Arnie became aware of his illness, his objectives changed accordingly. "Arnie's aspirations for life used to be for his clothing business," Beverly said. "He was an excellent designer. Arnie was just really getting successful when all of this happened to him. I think now," continued Beverly, "his aspirations are more toward his own inner fulfillment and how he can help others through his pain. Now that he has reconciled to what is going on within his body, he's able to focus upon how his experience can help other people."

"If I could have as much courage as Arnie does in his daily activities," said Beverly, "then I have nothing to fear in my life."

"As a volunteer, I think we get a lot more out of it, in the sense that when you see your client, you develop a personal relationship with them," continued Beverly. "But there's something in the back of your brain that never lets you forget the sun is always shining for you. No matter what happens to you, nothing can be such an incredible thing to battle as that. It's the hardest thing in the 20th century. It's the most difficult personal battle being fought right now."

"I personally don't know how they do it," said Beverly. "I think I'd fall apart. I really do."

"The experience of their pain makes my music better too," she said. "It makes it more deep, more spiritual. It affects your music, it affects how you view your music and what your music is for."

"Even though I'm focused on my music," continued Beverly, who is an accomplished pianist, "I carry the psychological feeling with me. You sense that nothing is bad. Their experiences are with you. It makes you very strong."

"I think Arnie is a tremendous fighter, but he doesn't know it," she said. "He's a hero. Those guys are the heroes of the 20th century. That may sound romantic, but I really believe it's true."

"Arnie," said Beverly, "has so much courage and so much strength. Either that, or he's fooling us very well. Without a doubt, he's a light to other people."

Arnie has, to some extent, expressed the sadness of an unfulfilled life. "I think it's the dream of old age. I think it's the dream of long life," said Beverly. "He says he's happy that he has done most everything in his life."

Yet with that comfortableness with his life lived, there are signs of searching for further acceptance. Arnie collects art, lately specifically crosses, which has come about after he contracted the virus.

"I think he feels, on a very subtle level, if he collects enough crosses, God will take this burden from him, which I think is very normal," said Beverly. "In that sense, I believe Arnie is very lucky. He still believes that God loves him, which is unique among victims. He holds no resentment."

"For many clients," she continued, "one of their final wishes is to make reconciliation with God. If they're not reconciled, clients see it as the end. If they do somehow become reconciled, in their death is some hope."

"Arnie," said Beverly, "has somehow reconciled that, and that's a big plus for him." "Take the necessary precautions," said Arnie. "There's no need to go through what I

have. Learn the responsibilities."

Those words ring true. "What you do within the time left is what's important," he said, "not the length of time."

Christopher D. Sharpe

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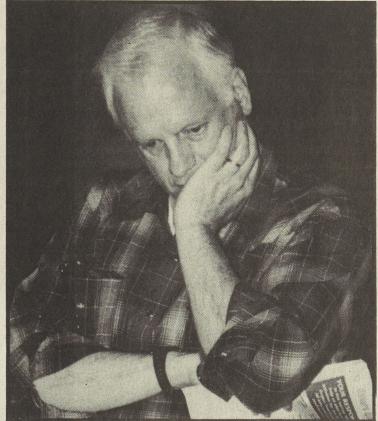


died, and names of people that have seen the Quilt, displayed, signature squares are made available.

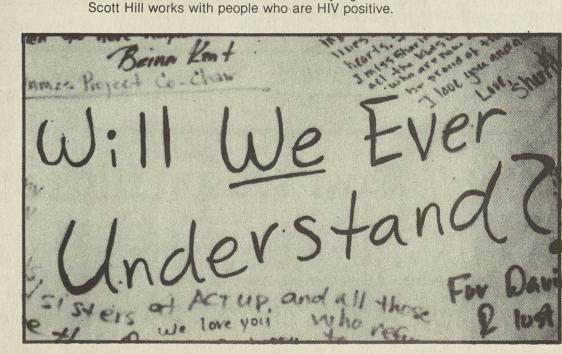
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IT / Towns ! The

Personal touch— In the signature square, filled with Bundi Wilde of Birmingham High School finds room to political statements, notes to loved ones that have leave her thoughts. At each location where Quilt is



Introspection— "It really hurts me to see all of these...to think that someone died of AIDS at my age ... "Reverend



A partial tracing of question posed by an anonymous person on signature square of Quilt.

As with any great tragedy, there must be a symbolic dedication of some sort to not only a AIDS is no longer a gay disease if it ever honor those who have died as a result of that was Anyone anywhere can become HIV tragedy, but to serve as a reminder to others outside of the experience. The Vietnam Memorial and the Holocaust Memorial are two examples of such reminders.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt, as it is known, is a more recent type of memorial that not only remembers people who have died as a result of AIDS, but educates people of the dangers of AIDS and its impact on everyone.

On April 9-11, only a small part of the Quilt (256 panels) was on display at the California State University at Northridge (CSUN). This portion of the Quilt is only one out of many that is touring around the nation.

Altogether, the Quilt panels exceed 15,840, covers 9.9 football fields and weighs 25 tons. In October of this year, in Washington D.C.,

the Quilt will be shown one last time in its entire-

ty. The Quilt itself is getting too big to display in

one place at one time.

positive. This quilt brings home that realization in a way that nothing else can. "I felt (like) why couldn't I have died instead

of people who had somewhat of a life," said sixth grader Jenny Plumeri, after having seen the Quilt. "I felt it was not fair that God was killing people because he had to."

Each panel that makes up the Quilt is handmade by the surviving friends, family or lovers. As a result, and as intended, the panels present the deceased as a person, not as a statistic. "It seems like there's so much love here," said Bhavna Mehta, a graduate student from CSUN, "it seems that they should have gotten this love when they were alive, not after they're dead."

—Text by Michael Oehler and Peter Maxwell



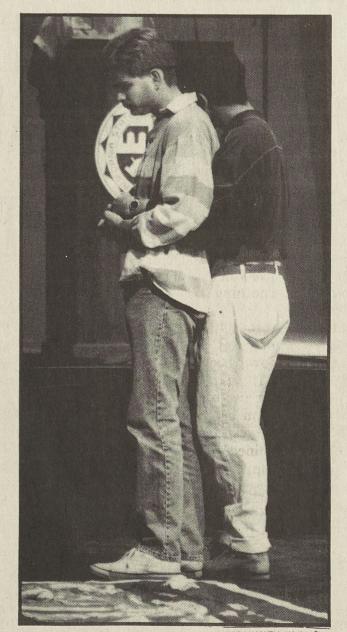
MICHAEL OEHLER / Valley Star

football fields (with walkways), weighs 25 tons, and is comprised of over 15,840 panels as of March, 1992. Each panel measures 3 which was that of Freddie Mercury, singer for *Queen*.

A Work in Progress— These were some of the only 256 ft. wide by 6 ft. long— the approximate size of a grave. "It's real-panels displayed at CSUN. Altogther, the Quilt covers over 9.9 ly like a satin cemetery when you think about it," one volunteer

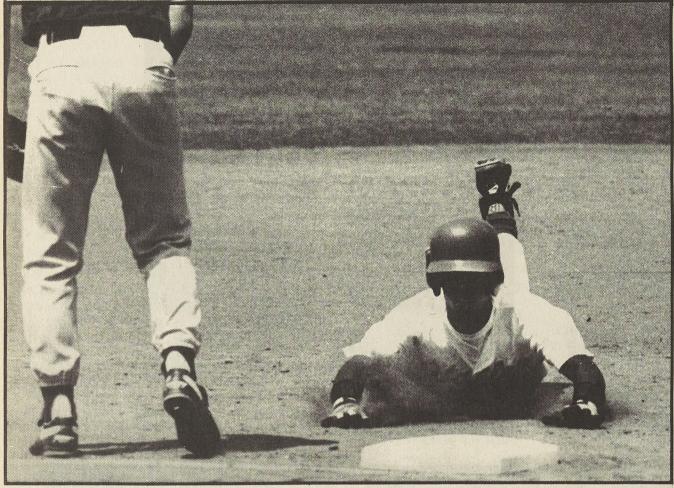


Early Education— Children from the Beverly Glen The panel was the idea of the teachers who wanted to Play Group present a panel for all children with AIDS. get the children involved with the community.



Holding on- Scott Benson,(L) a student at CSUN gets some emotional support from Dion McFall, a Pierce student, while listening to the names being read from the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Triple header



Safe— Sean Lewis kicks up some dust as he slides Monica baseball game, April 11. Lewis scored the first

RICHARD MANTONYA / Valley Star into third base in the first inning of the LAVC-Santa run of the game during the next play. LAVC won 13-2.

By ANDY FISHMAN

If doing your best were all it took to win, the Monarch men's and women's swim teams would be undefeated.

On this day, however, merely beating the old times was not good enough. The men placed third overall with 565 points, and the women placed fifth with 393 points at the WSSC at Cuesta College.

In spite of coming in fifth, the lady Monarchs all had life best times.

The best women's performances of the day were turned in by: Hannah Smits-Van Oyen, coming in fourth in the 500 free (5:39.1), and placing sixth in the 200 free (2:02.8), Luzmilla Ocon, who had two sixth place finishes in the 200 individual medely (2:31.2) and in the 100 butterfly (1:11.7).

The highlight of the men's meet was the 200 free relay team who, not only placed first but also qualified for the state championship by setting a new school record with a time of (1:29.95). The team members include Ryan Barry, Steve Mitchell, Wonmeen Jun and Robert Brown.

This day was especially big for Barry, who not only swam in the 200 free, but also came in third in the 200 backstroke (2:03.18) to qualify for the state championship, and had a fifth place in the 100 fly (56.10).

Other men swimmers who had big days were Costales who took fourth in the 100 fly (56.0) and fourth in the 100 free (50.20), and Jun who grabbed a fourth in the 100

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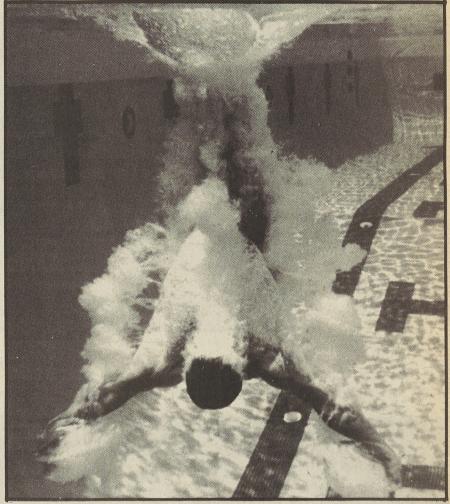
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Best is not enough



Gilbert Gallo of LAVC swim team takes a dive

backstroke (56.9), and a sixth in the

200 backstroke (2:07.7).

So as another swim season comes to a close, it was quite obvious that

Coach William Krauss has a lot to be proud of, with all his swimmers improving on times of old. It appears that you can't ask more than that of anybody.

Baseball: Post-season slips away

By KEVIN BOLT **Associate Sports Editor**

Turn out the lights; the party's

The LAVC baseball squad was eliminated from post-season play as they were crushed 11-3 in front of a sun-baked capacity crowd at Moorpark Saturday.

The Monarchs could have squeaked into the play-offs with a win but will have to wait until next year to do so.

Moorpark sent 11 men to the plate in the eighth inning and rocked Monarch relief pitcher Willie Rivera for six runs to pull away from Valley, giving the Raiders (11-9) the final play-off birth in the Western State Conference.

Moorpark's Tom Lunsford hit a

school record eighth home run of the season, a two-run shot to give the Raiders a 4-2 lead in the fifth inning.

Valley's Tim Weir had a solo homer in the sixth inning, and Mark David was three for five in the losing cause.

Moorpark center fielder Daryl Hernandez went three for five, and Bill Hall, Jeff Sommer and Mike Keegan each had two hits for the Raiders, who finished 20-15 overall.

Valley's Mario Joy suffered his second loss, despite pitching seven innings allowing only four earned runs, and striking out six. "Mario has done great for us all

year, but he was at 125 pitches and we had to take him out," head coach Chris Johnson said. Jason Master (2-0) picked up the

win for the Raiders, who along with WSC champion Pierce will join Ventura, Bakersfield and Cuesta in the post-season.

Monarch shortstop Carlos Olmos, who batted .305 and committed only two errors in league play said, "Our record didn't reflect the type of team we had. We have a lot of key players returning next year and we are looking forward to next season."

One player who will be returning, freshman Rob Garbo said, "Our pitching kept us in most of the games, and next season we will have that experience, and are looking for a more balanced team.'

After getting off to a slow start this season, Valley climbed back into play-off contention midway through the season, peaking as high as fourth place, but folded down the stretch. The Monarchs (10-9-1 in the WSC, 15-20-1 overall) return 13 players for next season.

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